Domestic Girlfriend

4

KEI SASUGA

Domestic Girlfriend

4

DOME
GIRL

KEI SASUGA

DOME GIRL

4

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CHAPTER 26: WAVERING

IT SEEMS...
...HIS DIVORCE WILL BE FINALIZED SOON.
APPARENTLY, THE DRAWN-OUT MEDIATIONS HAVE FINALLY BEEN SETTLED.
WELL, NOT LIKE IT'S OF ANY INTEREST TO YOU, ANYMORE.
...
I...
... SEE.

I DIDN'T THINK...
...HE HAD ANY INTENTION OF GETTING DIVORCED.
I'M NOT SURE IF HE TOLD YOU...
...BUT IT SEEMS HIS MARRIAGE WAS ANYTHING BUT A HAPPY ONE.
RESEARCHING AT THE UNIVERSITY HAD ALWAYS BEEN HIS DREAM,
SO WHEN THE DAUGHTER OF A PROFESSOR HE FELT INDEBTED TO PROPOSED TO HIM, HE COULDN'T JUST TURN HER DOWN.
HOWEVER, ONCE THEY STARTED LIVING TOGETHER, HER SELFISHNESS AND CONTROLLING NATURE MADE THEM CONSTANTLY BUTT HEADS.
IT SEEMED TO DRAIN THE LIFE OUT OF HIM.

AND YET, SINCE ABOUT TWO YEARS OR SO AGO...
...HE STARTED CHEERING UP AGAIN FOR SOME REASON.

ジ
ZIIIIP

STILL AWAKE, I SEE.
...
YOU'RE A POOR ACTOR.
YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE YOU'RE ASLEEP WITH YOUR BODY ALL TENSE LIKE THAT.
CAN'T SLEEP?
...

WANT ME TO SING YOU A LULLABY?
OR WOULD YOU CARE FOR A STORY?
I'M NOT A TODDLER...
SEN-SEI...
JUST WHERE SHOULD SOMEONE CHANNEL FEELINGS...
...THAT WILL NEVER BEAR FRUIT NOR BE FOR-GOTTEN?

EEK キャーッ
AH HA HA アハハハ
WAAAIT!
THAT'S COLD!
LOOK, LOOK! THERE ARE TINY FISH IN HERE!

JUST DON'T SLIP AND HURT YOURSELVES, ALL RIGHT?
'KAAAY!
SPSHHH
'KAAAY!
YOU LITTLE!
PSH
PSH
PSH
EEEK!
MIYA!
WAAAIT!
SAVE ME, HINA-SENSEI!
YOU'RE NOT GETTING AWAY!

I WONDER WHAT SENSEI PLANS TO DO.
NOT THAT I HAVE ANY SAY IN THE MATTER ANYMORE.
UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, THERE WON'T BE ANY PROBLEM IF SENSEI DATES SHUU HAGIWARA AND I FALL FOR SOMEONE FROM SCHOOL.
BUT ...
DID YOU FIND ANYTHING, ONEE-CHAN?
THERE ARE FISH, BUT I DON'T HAVE A NET...

HEEEY!
I FOUND A CRAB.
THERE MIGHT BE MORE LIFE BETWEEN THE ROCKS ALONG THE BANK.
REALLY?! LET ME SEE!
A CRAB?!
VSSH ざぶ
VSSH ざぶ
WAY TO GO, NATSUO-KUN!
CAREFUL, I ALMOST SLIPPED ON THE ROCKS AROUND THERE EARL–
SHHK
AHH!
LOOK OUT!
PKSSHH
BAKSHH

OW...
YOU GUYS OKAY?
SORRY!
ARE YOU OKAY?!
I'M REALLY SORRY!
カシャ SNAP
OH, YEAH.
NO BIGGIE...
WHA?!
HOW NICE. A PAGE OF YOUTH.

HEY! WHAT'D YOU TAKE THAT FOR?!
NO NEED TO BE EMBARRASSED.
IT WAS JUST LIKE A SCENE FROM A MOVIE.
SQUIK
キュッ
H
IS
S
S
AAH ...
THAT WAS SO FUN! ♥
IS
IS

I GOT TO WEAR THIS YEAR'S SWIMSUIT, TOO! ♥
YOU BUY ONE EVERY YEAR?
DUH!
MYU-CHAN ONLY HAS A SCHOOL SWIMSUIT, TOO.
I WOULD'VE LENT YOU ONE IF YOU'D TOLD ME.
I...DON'T THINK YOUR SWIMSUIT WOULD FIT ME, MOMO-SAN.
DO YOU WEAR A SCHOOL SWIMSUIT WHEN YOUR BOYFRIEND TAKES YOU TO THE BEACH?
I-I'VE NEVER HAD A BOY-FRIEND...
POP
ひょっ
WHAT BOUT A CRUSH?
M- MOMO-SAN...!
C'MON, IT'S JUST US GIRLS.

ONEE-CHAN HAS A CRUSH ON SOMEONE!
MIYA?!
OOOH!
FOR REAL?!
I THINK SO!
WELL, MYU-CHAN?
I...
I DO...
BUT...
REALLY?!
WHO IS IT?!
SWISH
NOT YOU, TOO, SENSEI!
WHO IS IT?!
A BOY FROM SCHOOL?!
I'M NOT TELLING!
C'MON!

OH.
HEY, GOT A MINUTE?
HUH? ARE YOU GOING SOMEWHERE, FUJII-KUN?
YEAH.
I GUESS WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH YAKISOBA NOODLES, SO I'M GONNA RUN TO THE STORE DOWN THE ROAD.
REALLY? MIND IF I GO WITH YOU? THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO BUY, TOO.

SORRY ABOUT BACK AT THE RIVER. YOU SCRAPED YOUR LEG, RIGHT?
AHH, IT'S NO BIG DEAL. I'M FINE.
DON'T SWEAT IT.
UMM.
YOU KNOW...
...THERE'S SOMETHING I'VE BEEN MEANING TO ASK.
IT'S...
...ABOUT THE CONDOMS.
CRACK
UM...
I'M REALLY SORRY ABOUT THAT...
NO, IT'S FINE!
I'M OVER IT!
I MEAN, I WAS SURPRISED, AND A LITTLE SCARED, TO BE HONEST.
BUT THAT'S NOT ALL...

IT'S JUST THAT NO ONE'S EVER LOOKED AT ME THAT WAY BEFORE...
...SO WHEN I REALIZED THAT...I HAVE A CHANCE, TOO...
IT MADE MY HEART POUND FOR SOME REASON.
DO ALL GUYS WALK AROUND WITH CONDOMS?
UHH, I WOULDN'T SAY *ALL*...
A GOOD DAY
I SEE...
I REALLY DON'T KNOW ANYTHING, HUH?
I'M NOT ASSERTIVE, AND I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING INTERESTING TO TALK ABOUT.
I FEEL SORT OF PATHETIC SOMETIMES.
FROM A BOY'S PERSPECTIVE...
...WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT GIRLS LIKE ME, FUJII-KUN?

WHAT ...
WHAT DO I THINK ?
ちらっ
GLANCE
I...

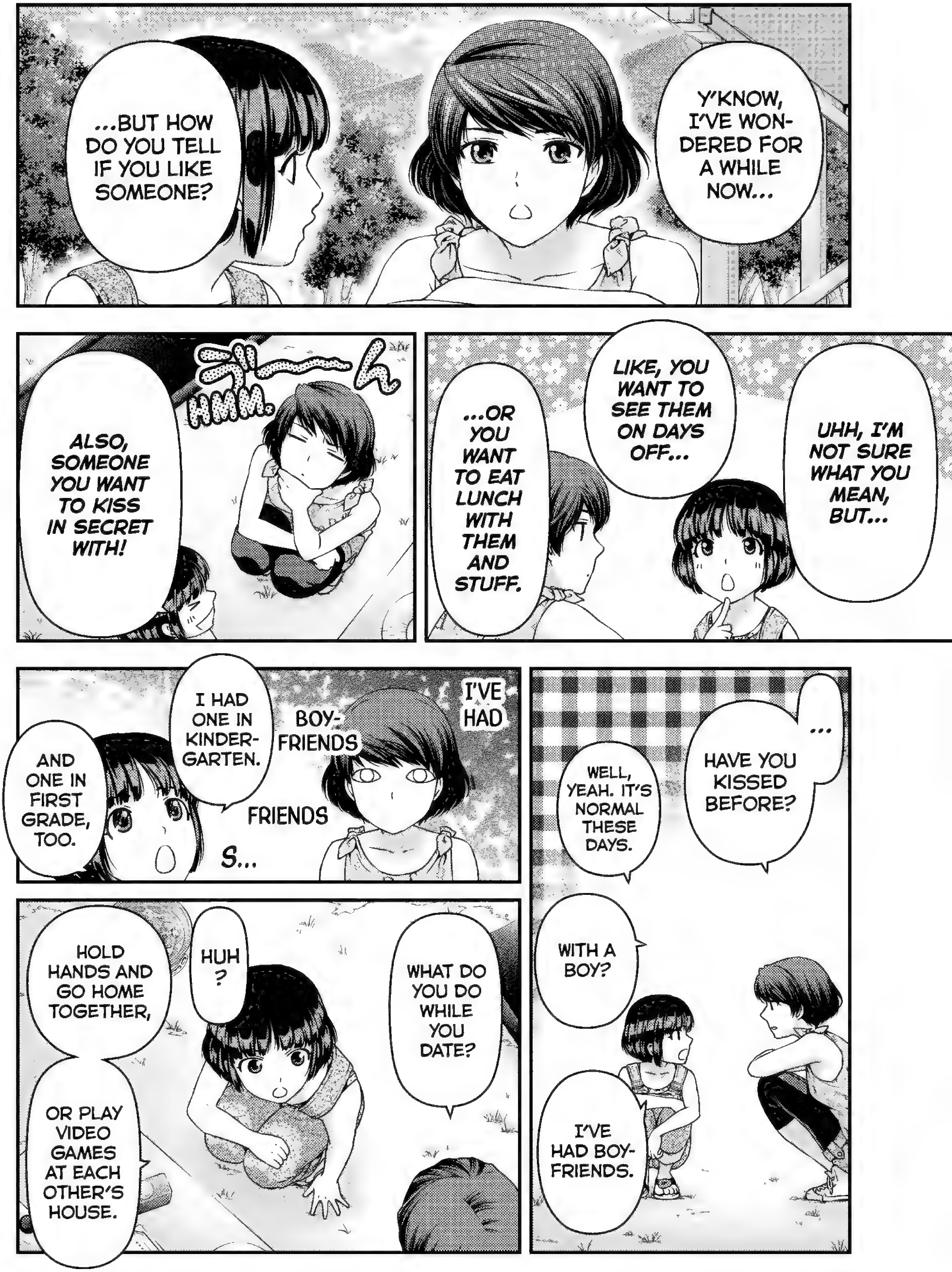
CHAPTER 27: SELF-AWARE

I DON'T THINK YOU SHOULD BE SO NEGATIVE ...
A LOT OF GUYS LIKE GIRLS WHO ARE KINDA LATE-BLOOMERS.
AND YOU'RE A NICE, DILIGENT, C-CUTE GIRL, ASHIHARA-SAN.
I THINK ANY GUY ...
...WOULD BE HAPPY TO DATE YOU.
SO YOU SHOULDN'T GO CALLING YOURSELF WORTHLESS OR...
A GOOD DAY
!
A GOOD DAY

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
HUH? UH... WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
YOUR FACE IS SUPER RED!
I-IT'S JUST...I'M NOT USED TO PEOPLE TELLING ME STUFF LIKE THAT.
MY FACE KIND OF OVERHEATED.
BUT...
THANKS.
HEARING THAT MAKES ME THINK I CAN BE A LITTLE MORE POSITIVE.
IF...
IF THE TWO OF US STARTED DATING...
...WE'D PROBABLY TALK ABOUT BOOKS AND MOVIES...
...AND JUST HOLDING HANDS WOULD BE ENOUGH TO MAKE MY HEART POUND.

MAYBE WE COULD HAVE...
...A REGULAR RELATIONSHIP, BEFITTING OF HIGH SCHOOLERS.
RUI-RUI.
CAN YOU WATCH MYA-CHAN? I'M GONNA MAKE THE SOUP.

HEY, RUI ONEE-SAN,
IS THERE SOMEONE YOU LIKE?
RUI ONEE-SAN.
NOT THAT.
IS THERE SOMEONE YOU LIKE?
CAN YOU SAY THAT AGAIN?
RUI ONEE-SAN
SOMEONE...
...I LIKE?
YOU WERE SAYING?
I ASKED IF THERE'S SOMEONE YOU LIKE.
じ～ん…
TOUCHED
THE YOUNGEST OF THE FAMILY. →


Y'KNOW, I'VE WONDERED FOR A WHILE NOW...
...BUT HOW DO YOU TELL IF YOU LIKE SOMEONE?
UHH, I'M NOT SURE WHAT YOU MEAN, BUT...
LIKE, YOU WANT TO SEE THEM ON DAYS OFF...
...OR YOU WANT TO EAT LUNCH WITH THEM AND STUFF.
う―ーん
HMM.
ALSO, SOMEONE YOU WANT TO KISS IN SECRET WITH!
...
HAVE YOU KISSED BEFORE?
WELL, YEAH. IT'S NORMAL THESE DAYS.
WITH A BOY?
I'VE HAD BOYFRIENDS.
I'VE HAD
BOY-FRIENDS
FRIENDS
S...
I HAD ONE IN KINDERGARTEN.
AND ONE IN FIRST GRADE, TOO.
WHAT DO YOU DO WHILE YOU DATE?
HUH?
HOLD HANDS AND GO HOME TOGETHER,
OR PLAY VIDEO GAMES AT EACH OTHER'S HOUSE.

YEAH, I'M JUST...
AH!
SORRY! DON'T BE UPSET!
HA, HA, HA! HOW WEIRD!
I'M THE ONE WHO ASKED, BUT NOW I'M THE ONE ANSWERING!
IT'S LIKE I'M THE OLDER ONE HERE!
I THOUGHT YOU WERE KIND OF SCARY, SINCE YOU DON'T TALK MUCH.
YOU'RE FUNNY, RUI ONEE-CHAN.
I GET THAT A LOT...

A GOOD DAY
05-13
VANCOUVER
ENJOY!!
SKATEBOADING
DESIGN FOR EVERYDAY
...
HUH?
THE CRAB LOOKS KINDA DOWN...
MAYBE I SHOULD CHANGE ITS WATER.
たたっ
SKSH SKSH

HERE YA GO.
THREE BAGS OF YAKISOBA NOODLES.
...THANKS.
ASHIHARA-SAN WENT WITH YOU?
A GOOD DAY
05-13
VANCOUVER
ENJOY!
YEAH. MIYA LOST HER TOOTH-BRUSH.
...
WHERE IS MIYA, ANYWAY?
...
SHE WAS HERE A SECOND AGO...

ミヤーッ
MIYAAA!
ミヤちゃーん
MIYA-CHAAAN!
WHERE DID SHE WANDER OFF TO?
I DON'T THINK SHE'D GO ANYWHERE WE HAVEN'T BEEN...
OH, YEAH. I THINK THE CRAB BUCKET WAS MISSING...
THERE SHE IS!
MIYA! WHAT ARE YOU DOING OVER HERE?
ONEE-CHAN!
LISTEN TO THIS! I CAME TO CHANGE THE CRAB'S WATER, RIGHT?
'CAUSE IT LOOKED LIKE HE REALLY NEEDED IT.

BUT THEN, I FOUND SAW SOME WATER PLANTS, SO...
DON'T STAND UP!
STAY PUT, I'LL BE RIGHT—
ズル
SLIP
HYAH!
BA
KOOSH
A GOOD DAY 05-13 VANCOUVER ENJOY!! SKATEBOADING
MIYA!
バシャ
SPSH
SPSH
SPSH
ONEE-CHAN...
VOOSH
FUJII-KUN!
I'LL GET THE TEACHERS!

ZOOSH
MIYA-CHAN!
ZOOSH
GASP
はっ
HUFF
HUFF
COUGH ケホッ
COUGH ケホッ
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, MIYA-CHAN?

GRAB
NATSUO NII-CHAAAN!
MIYA-CHAN!
STAY STILL! IT'S DANGEROUS IF YOU GRAB–
THUD
BLUB
THIS IS BAD...
IF I GIVE OUT HERE, WE'LL BOTH...
PLEASE...
...AT LEAST LET HER BE SAVED.
MOM...!
YANK

PULL NOW!
OKAY!
SEN... SEI...
GOOD WORK HANGING IN THERE.
BUT DON'T BE SO RECKLESS.

MIYA ...!
THANK GOD YOU TWO ARE ALL RIGHT...
DASH
HUG
RUI-RUI ...
I WAS SCARED ...
I WAS SO SCARED ...!

CALL ME IF THERE'S ANYTHING YOU NEED, OKAY?
SURE, THANKS.
カサ…
SHF
...
FINALLY STOPPED CRYING, HUH?

YOUR EYES ARE TOTALLY RED...
YOU HEARD ASHIHARA-SAN. IT WASN'T YOUR FAULT.
BUHHH うぅぅ～
AAH...
THERE YOU GO AGAIN!
HERE, TISSUES.
WHEN I THOUGHT...
...I MIGHT NOT GET TO SPEAK TO EITHER OF YOU AGAIN...
...I GOT SO SCARED THAT MY LEGS STARTED SHAKING.
THERE'S STILL SO MUCH I WANT TO ASK AND TALK ABOUT...
IF WORSE CAME TO WORST...
...THEN REGRET...
...WOULDN'T BEGIN TO DESCRIBE IT.

WHAT…
…WAS THAT FOR?
I THINK…
…I MIGHT LIKE YOU.

The way things are going the human race will be ruined with the earth
......In the future not far by the power of
When does the day when the war and
The world cannot be saved
and begrudging
The world can
AH, MAN...
and begrudging ever
WHY NOW, OF ALL TIMES?

CHAPTER 28: INEXPLICABLE

WHY DOES THAT MOMENT...
...HAVE TO COME RUSHING BACK?
I WONDER IF SENSEI...
...REALIZED HOW I FELT AT THAT POINT.
TH-
THANKS ...
...
NOT SURE HOW TO ANSWER.

WHAT ELSE CAN I SAY?! IT'D EASY TO REPLY WITH "SURE" OR "SORRY" IF SHE ASKED ME OUT...
...BUT "I LIKE YOU"?
AND "MIGHT" AT THAT?!
DID I TROUBLE SENSEI LIKE THIS, TOO?
C'MON...
DON'T GIVE ME THAT LOOK!
...
BUT ...

IT'S NOT LIKE WE CAN ACTUALLY GO OUT, RIGHT?
I'M SURE YOU REALIZE,
BUT WE'RE *FAMILY* NOW.
THEN IS IT OKAY...
...IF WE JUST KISS IN SECRET SOMETIMES?
HUH?!
WHOA, WHOA, WHOA! WHAT THE HELL IS SHE SAYING? IS SHE STUPID? STRAIGHT BRAINDEAD?
I KNEW SHE WAS KINDA SPACEY, BUT NOT THIS MUCH!
LIKE I SAID, DOING THAT SORT OF THING AS A FAMILY IS WAY...

...OUT OF LI–
way things are going, the h
will be ruined with the e
......In the future not far
FINE!
HAVE IT YOUR WAY!
GIMME A BREAK! HOW CAN I REFUSE WHEN SHE LOOKS AT ME LIKE THAT?!
HE, HE ...

...!
OKAY.
DEAL.
たたっ
SKSH SKSH
AHHHH...
ばっ
POMF
ふっ
WHAT NOW...?

OH!
NATSUO-KUN!
ARE YOU SURE YOU SHOULD BE UP?!
HOW DO YOU FEEL?
I'M FINE. I FEEL BETTER AFTER LAYING DOWN FOR A WHILE.
YOUR SHOULDER...
OH, IT'S PRETTY BRUISED UP, BUT NO BROKEN BONES OR ANYTHING.
SEEING AS YOU'RE INJURED,
I THINK IT MIGHT BE BEST IF WE WRAP UP THIS CAMPING TRIP.
WHAT DO YOU SAY?

IT'S NOT THAT BIG OF A DEAL.
I'M FINE, REALLY.
EVERYONE WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS TRIP, SO I SAY WE KEEP GOING.
way things are going, the human
MIYA, MAKE SURE YOU TELL HIM YOURSELF.
NA-
NATSUO NII-CHAN...
The way things are going, the human race will be ruined with the earth. ......In the future not far by the power of
THANK YOU FOR SAVING ME.
AND I'M SORRY...
NO BIGGIE.
I'M JUST GLAD YOU'RE OKAY, MIYA-CHAN.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO APOLOGIZE...
...BUT WILL YOU MAKE ME SOMETHING TASTY FOR DINNER?
OKAY!
ONEE-CHAN, I'M GONNA GRILL MEAT!
WAIT, MIYA!
I SWEAR, SHE NEVER KNOWS WHEN TO STOP...

IT LOOKS SO GOOD! ♪
ジュ〜〜ッ
THIS ONE LOOKS GOOD TO GO.
LOOK, LOOK! I SKEWERED THIS ONE!
REALLY? LOOKS GREAT!
OM はぐっ
NOM むぐ NOM むぐ
WELL?
HOW IS IT?
DELICIOUS!
ONE BILLION POINTS!
YAAAY!
HERE.
TRY SOME OF MY SPECIAL POTATO SALAD.♥

UHH...
WHAT'S WITH THE PLATING?
I THOUGHT IT MIGHT STIR YOUR APPETITE! ♥
HEY, MOMO-CHAN.
ARE YOU REALLY THE SAME AGE AS ONEE-CHAN?
HM?
THAT'S RIGHT. WHY?
I MEAN...
ス
SWIF
YOUR BOOBS WILL GROW BIG IF YOU BECOME MY LITTLE SISTER, MIYA-CHAN.
REALLY?!
DON'T LIE TO KIDS SO NATURALLY.
YOU SHOULD BECOME MOMO-CHAN'S SISTER, TOO, ONEE-CHAN!
WANNA MOVE IN WITH ME, MYU-CHAN?
I'LL GIVE YOU LOTS OF MASSAGES. ♥
!
WOBB
HUH?
SWAY
フラァ
MY VISION'S KINDA...
BAM

NATSUO-KUN?! ARE YOU OKAY?!
WHAT'S WRONG?!
COULD HE HAVE SOME REPERCUSSIONS FROM–
スー…ッ ZZZ
スー… ZZZ
スー… ZZZ
...HE FELL ASLEEP.
WHAT?! ALL OF A SUDDEN?!
HIS BREATH KINDA SMELLS LIKE ALCOHOL...
AH!
NATSUO-KUN ACCIDENTALLY DRANK MY OOLONG-HAI*!
AHH! I'M SORRY, NATSUO-KUN!
I DON'T THINK HE CAN HEAR YOU.
あはは AHAHA
I GUESS WE SHOULD LET HIM REST.

*A COCKTAIL MADE OF OOLONG TEA AND JAPANESE *SHOCHU*.

サク
SKSH
...
NATSUO-KUUUN.
YOU OKAY?

HUH ...?
HINA-SENSEI ...
ぱしっ
SNATCH

ARE YOU...
...GOING TO SEE HAGIWARA-SAN AGAIN?
DO YOU STILL LOVE HIM?
ARE YOU CONFLICTED ABOUT BREAKING UP?
PLEASE DON'T SEE HIM ANYMORE.
WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT HIM GETTING DIVORCED?
WILL YOU TRY TO CONTACT HIM?
The way things are going, the human race will be ruined with the earth. In the future not far by the power of the day when the war and
I CAN'T ASK.
I DON'T...
...HAVE ANY RIGHT TO.
SORRY...

I'M THE ONE...
...WHO SAID IT WASN'T RIGHT.
SWIF
!!...
SORRY AGAIN.
FOR-GET ABOUT IT, OKAY?

WHAT...?
EVERYONE BUCKLED IN?
YES-SIR!
ANYONE FORGET ANYTHING?
JUST WHAT...
...WAS SHE THINKING?

CHAPTER 29: NEW FRIEND

ミーーン MEEEE
ミンミンミン MEE MEE
ジーー… MEEEE
ミーーン MEEEE
ミンミンミン… MEE MEE
ミーーン MEEEE
ミンミンミン MEE MEE
ジーー… MEEEE
の人に
らいそ
りも二
ないメ
と思い出す
高校一年
かもしれない
のお土産
私はそれを携帯電
はなかったり あの日
先生から旅行
もの栞をもらい
に大切に入れた。
SKF ガシ
SKF ガシ
MRR…
EVER SINCE THEN…
…I FEEL LIKE SENSEI'S BEEN KEEPING HER DISTANCE FROM ME.
NOT LIKE BEFORE, WHEN SHE PRETENDED NOTHING HAPPENED BY ACTING CHEERFUL…
…BUT MORE SUBTLY, AS IF SHE'S AVOIDING EVEN BEING AROUND ME.
WHILE HERE I AM, STALLED WITH NO WAY OUT.
HOW DID THAT BOOK START AGAIN?

CLACK
カチャ
HUH?
WHY ARE YOU WEARING YOUR UNIFORM?
I STARTED WORKING ON MY NOVEL FOR THE CLUB PUBLICATION, BUT I HIT A DEAD END.
I'M GONNA HEAD TO THE CLUBROOM AND GET SOME BOOKS FOR IDEAS.
OH, BY THE WAY,
DID YOU HAPPEN TO TAKE MY UNDERWEAR?
HUH?!
I HUNG THEM OUT TO DRY, BUT ONLY MINE ARE MISSING.
WHY WOULD I TAKE THEM?! CHECK THE YARD!
GIMME A BREAK. I'M SUSPECT NUMBER ONE?
DON'T YOU SUPPOSEDLY "LIKE" ME?

IF YOU'RE BORED, WANT TO COME WITH ME?
WE CAN STOP BY L'AMANT ON THE WAY BACK.
UHH...
HUH?
WHY DON'T YOU GO BY YOURSELF?
THAT'S ALL RIGHT. I DON'T REALLY NEED ANYTHING.
I HAVE ENOUGH BOOKS ON HAND FOR IDEAS.

MAN ...
I JUST DON'T GET GIRLS.
CLACK
カララ
SHE SAID SHE LIKED ME, RIGHT?!
SHE'S DEFINITELY NOT ACTING ANY DIFFERENTLY.
AREN'T GIRLS NORMALLY SWEETER TO THEIR CRUSH?
...
WELL...I GUESS IT'S WRONG TO EXPECT THE NORMAL FROM HER.
KSHHH
SCREECH
!

KLTTR
ガシャーン ッ
OW ...
HUH ?!
A BIKE? INSIDE THE SCHOOL ?!
SPIN カラ
SPIN カラ
Ugh...
Fuck my life!
HE HAS BLUE EYES...
SEC-OND-YEAR ?!
JOLT ビクッ

WHAT ?!
UH... YEAH?
OHH! SAME! SAME! SAME GRADE!
ぶん SHAKE
ぶん SHAKE
ぶん SHAKE
I'M ALEX!
AND YOU?
ER, FUJII...
AHH, NO, NO.
FIRST NAME.
I'M AL.
...
NATSUO...
PAT
NAT-CHAN! NICE TO MEET'CHA!
NAT-CHAN...
HUH? DON'T FRIENDS ADD "CHAN" TO EACH OTHER'S NAME IN JAPAN?
ERR... SORRY, I'M HAVING A HARD TIME KEEPING UP WITH ALL THE QUESTIONS I HAVE.
WHY WERE YOU RIDING A BIKE,
IN THE HALLWAY,
DURING SUMMER BREAK?
AHH, I'M TRANSFERRING TO THIS SCHOOL AFTER SUMMER BREAK ENDS.
I CAME TODAY TO TAKE CARE OF THE PROCEDURES AND STUFF.

BUT NO ONE'S HERE SINCE IT'S BREAK, RIGHT?
AND THERE JUST HAPPENED TO BE AN ABANDONED BIKE BY THE BACK GATE.
THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO IN THAT CASE, RIGHT?
NO, NOT ONE.
ZERO. ZERO THINGS TO DO.
YOU'RE GONNA GET IN TROUBLE IF ONE OF THE SUMMER SCHOOL TEACHERS CATCHES YOU.
DON'T WORRY! NO ONE'LL CATCH ME!
WHAT'RE YOU HERE FOR, NAT-CHAN?
OH...
I CAME TO BORROW A BOOK.
I WAS GONNA HEAD HOME AFTER THIS.
'AIGHT! HOP ON, THEN!
ぱしっ
PAT PAT
HUH?!
I'LL GIVE YOU A LIFT TO THE ENTRANCE.
DON'T BE SHY!
C'MON!

CLACK
GO!
HEY, KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN!
CHILL OUT, MAN!
!!!
WHOA! YOU'RE GOING DOWN THE STAIRS, TOO?!
No problem!
THUD
THUD
THUD
GYAHHH!
THUD
THUD
THUD

SKREE
AHHH!
KLATTR
UGH...
WHAT WERE YOU THINKING? I KNEW STAIRS WERE A BAD IDEA...
!
I SHOULD ASK YOU BOTH WHAT YOU'RE THINKING!
WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU DOING RIDING WILD THROUGH THE SCHOOL ON A BIKE?!
WHAT YEAR AND WHAT CLASS ARE YOU BOYS IN?!
AH!
YOU'RE THE TRANSFER STUDENT WHO JUST CAME IN...
UNBELIEVABLE! ARE YOU TRYING TO GET EXPELLED ALREADY?!
SCOLD
SCOLD
SCOLD

PHEW. SHE REALLY CHEWED US OUT ...
HEY ...
WHY'RE YOU GETTING ALL DEPRESSED AFTER PULLING A STUNT LIKE THAT?
しょぼーん… GLOOM
NAT-CHAN, AM I GONNA GET EXPELLED ...?
I'M DONE FOR IF A TEACHER HATES ME THAT MUCH...
WELL, WE APOLOGIZED, SO IT SHOULD BE FINE.
JUST KNUCKLE DOWN AND STAY BEHAVED ONCE BREAK ENDS AND...
ぐ〜っ GRRR
I'M HUNGRY ...

SIGN: CAFÉ & BAR / L'AMANT
茶&BAR
MY, WHAT A PRETTY BOY.
IS HE A NEW FRIEND OF YOURS, NATSUO-CHAN?
OM
NOM
NOM
I DUNNO ABOUT FRIEND...
HE USED TO LIVE OVERSEAS AND IS TRANSFERRING TO MY SCHOOL.
I MAY BE PRETTY, BUT I AIN'T NO GIRL.
SHING
NICE TO MEET'CHA. I'M AN AMERICAN-BORN JAPANESE STUD.
I SEE, AN IDIOT FROM ANOTHER LAND...
WHERE'S FUMIYA?
HE HAS THE DAY OFF.
HEY, BOSS. IS THIS A GOOD SPOT FOR THE POSTER?
POSTER?
ARE YOU PROMOTING A FESTIVAL OR SOMETHING?

GET THIS. THE POLICE ASKED US TO PUT ONE UP.
APPARENTLY, AN UNDERWEAR THIEF HAS BEEN RUNNING RAMPANT LATELY.
THE POSTER IS A HEADS UP.
AN UNDERWEAR THIEF?
THEN MAYBE RUI'S UNDERWEAR WAS...
IS HE ONE OF THOSE FAMOUS "HENTAI"?
I'VE HEARD ABOUT THOSE DUDES OVERSEAS.
WHO GETS TURNED ON BY UNDERWEAR THAT ISN'T EVEN BEING WORN BY A GIRL?
I MEAN, IT'S ONE THING IF YOU'RE GOING OUT WITH THE OWNER,
BUT THEY'RE JUST PIECES OF CLOTH OTHERWISE, RIGHT?
HMM. LISTEN TO MR. POPULAR OVER HERE.
OH, Y'KNOW. I GOT AROUND ACROSS THE PACIFIC.
TEE-HEE
THEN WHAT ARE THE NAMES AND AGES OF ALL THE GIRLS YOU'VE DATED UNTIL NOW?

I...I TOTALLY FORGOT! BUT THERE WERE A LOT, I TELL YA!
HE'S LYING...
SERIOUSLY!
THE CUTIES WERE ALL OVER ME OVERSEAS!
YEAH, YEAH. I HEAR YA.
YOUR ANSWER TELLS ME YOU DON'T!
WHERE DO YOU LIVE, ANYWAY?
I'LL WALK YOU HOME IF YOU'RE NOT FAMILIAR WITH THE AREA YET.
SHWIP
すい
FOR REAL?
YOU'RE SUCH A NICE GUY, NAT-CHAN.
TO THE STATION, PLEASE.
し
WHO SAID ANYTHING ABOUT A PIGGYBACK RIDE?
GET OFF.

IT'S QUICKER TO GET TO THE STATION THIS WAY.
LET'S TAKE THE BACK ALLEYS.
HEY, NAT-CHAN. DO YOU HAVE A GIRLFRIEND?
HUH? ME?
UHH...
NOT RIGHT NOW.
I SEE. WELL, THEY DO SAY JAPANESE PEOPLE ARE SHY, AFTER ALL.
DEPENDS ON THE PERSON. I HAVE GUY AND GIRL FRIENDS WHO ARE PRETTY ASSERTIVE.
WELL, ONCE SCHOOL STARTS AGAIN...
YEAH? GIRLS, TOO?!
RIGHT ON! INTRODUCE ME SOMETIME!
IT'S HARD TO SAY THAT SHE'S TRYING TO PICK ME UP...

H-HEY, LOOK!
ISN'T THAT THE UNDERWEAR THIEF?!
タッ
DASH
LET'S CATCH HIM, NAT-CHAN!
WHA ?!
HOLD IT!
ス
SWISH

!
THAT STREET ...
HUFF ハァ
HUFF ハァ
くるっ TURN
!
!!
!!!

!
DON'T LET HIM PASS, NAT-CHAN!
Say your prayers!
HUP!!
!
WHAM

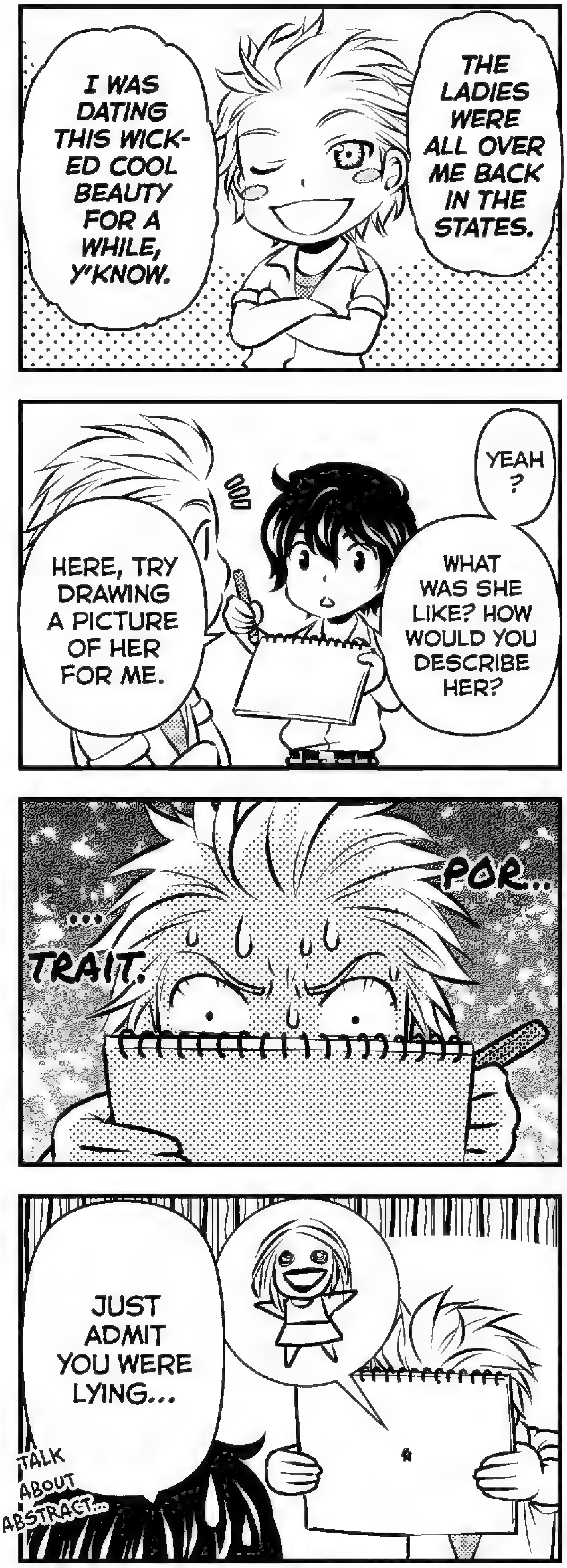
Mission complete!
DON'T FORGET THAT I'M BEHIND HIM!
WEE WOO
WEE WOO
ARE YOU TWO THE ONES WHO CALLED?
I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU CAUGHT AN UNDERWEAR THIEF...
YES, SIR!
SORRY... THIS MAN IS THE CULPRIT.
HERE'S YOUR REWARD, NAT-CHAN.
JAPANESE PEOPLE LOVE UNDERWEAR, RIGHT?
KNOCK IT OFF.
WE APPRECIATE YOUR HELP IN CAPTURING THE PERPETRATOR.
CAN WE ASK YOU TWO TO COME TO THE STATION SO WE CAN MAKE A REPORT?

HEY, NAT-CHAN! DO YOU THINK THIS'LL MAKE THE NEWS?
PROBABLY NOT OVER AN UNDERWEAR THIEF.
OH!
YOU REALLY SURPRISED ME WHEN YOU SAID YOU WERE AT THE POLICE STATION.
I THOUGHT I SHOULD CLEAR MYSELF OF THIS MORNING'S FALSE CHARGE.
WHO'S THIS?
HUH? OH...
I MET HIM AT SCHOOL. HE'S...

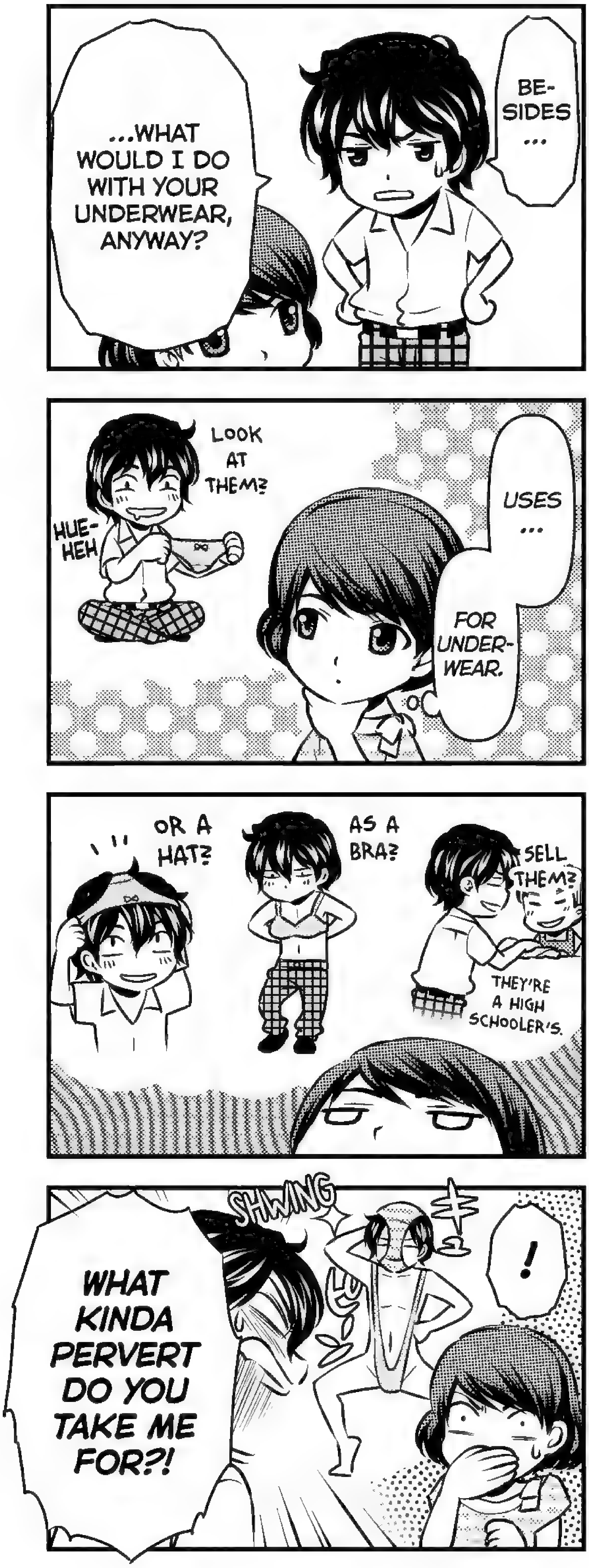
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING.
UMM, AND YOU'RE?
OH, SHE'S THE GIRL I MENTIONED WHO MIGHT BE ONE OF TODAY'S VICTIMS.
I SEE.
WE WON'T BE ABLE TO RETURN YOUR BELONGINGS YET, BUT WOULD YOU LIKE TO CHECK IF YOURS ARE IN THERE?
YES, PLEASE.
HEY!
NAT-CHAN! NAT-CHAN!
WHO'S SHE?
HUH?
OHH.
UHH...
A FRIEND...
I GUESS?
SWOOOON
SHE'S REALLY CUTE...
I WANNA GO OUT WITH THAT GIRL!
INTRODUCE ME TO HER, NAT-CHAN!

DG 4-PANEL THEATER

PORTRAIT


THE LADIES WERE ALL OVER ME BACK IN THE STATES.
I WAS DATING THIS WICKED COOL BEAUTY FOR A WHILE, Y'KNOW.
YEAH?
WHAT WAS SHE LIKE? HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE HER?
HERE, TRY DRAWING A PICTURE OF HER FOR ME.
POR...
...TRAIT.
JUST ADMIT YOU WERE LYING...
TALK ABOUT ABSTRACT...

UNDERWEAR


BESIDES...
...WHAT WOULD I DO WITH YOUR UNDERWEAR, ANYWAY?
USES... FOR UNDERWEAR.
LOOK AT THEM?
HUE-HEH
SELL THEM?
THEY'RE A HIGH SCHOOLER'S.
AS A BRA?
OR A HAT?
!
SHWING
WHAT KINDA PERVERT DO YOU TAKE ME FOR?!

CHAPTER 30: MELTING…

IN-
INTRO-DUCE YOU?
SH- SHOULDN'T YOU ASK HER OUT YOURSELF?
YOU'RE ASSERTIVE, SINCE YOU WERE RAISED IN THE STATES, RIGHT?
OH…
UHH…
WELL…
Y'KNOW!
JAPANESE GIRLS ARE SHY, RIGHT?
I MIGHT SCARE HER OFF IF I APPROACH HER LIKE I WOULD OVERSEAS!
SO, I WANNA BE CAREFUL…
YOU FEEL ME?!

HUUUUH?!
PLEASE, MAN!
WE'RE BUDDIES WHO GOT CHEWED OUT TOGETHER, AREN'T WE?!
PRETTY PLEASE?
SO?
DID YOU FIND YOURS?

YEAH, THEY WERE THERE.
SINCE THEY'RE EVIDENCE, IT SOUNDS LIKE IT'LL BE A WHILE BEFORE I GET THEM BACK, THOUGH.
APPARENTLY, HE STOLE A LOT JUST TODAY. THEY HAD A TON OF THEM LINED UP.
I GUESS HE WAS A PEDOPHILE, SINCE MOST OF THEM WERE SMALLER SIZED.
THERE WERE KIDS' PANTIES, TOO.
THAT'S WHY HE ONLY STOLE RUI'S...
...
INTRODUCE ME TO HER, NAT-CHAN!
HOW EXACTLY...
...DO I FEEL ABOUT RUI, I WONDER.

WE'RE BACK.
WELCOME HOME. WHERE WERE YOU?
OH.
YOU'RE BACK.
かくかく BLAH BLAH
しかじか YAP YAP
WHAT?!
AN UNDERWEAR THIEF?!
AND YOU CAUGHT HIM, NATSUO-KUN?!
ERR,
WAS EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT?
HE DIDN'T ATTACK YOU OR ANYTHING, DID HE?
I'M FINE. I HAD A PRETTY RIPPED GUY WITH ME.
THANK GOODNESS...

SHE REALLY IS ACTING DIFFERENTLY.
IF THIS HAD BEEN BEFORE THE CAMPING TRIP...
THAT'S AMAZING!
WAY TO GO, NATSUO-KUN!
IT'S THIS LATE ALREADY?
I HAVE TO MAKE DINNER.
NEED A HAND? WHAT ARE YOU MAKING?
I'M GOOD.
YOU MUST BE TIRED FROM YOUR CLUB'S AWAY GAME.
WHY DON'T YOU TAKE A BATH BEFORE DINNER?
SORRY...
IT'S FINE. DID YOU FINISH READING THE BOOK I LENT YOU, BY THE WAY?
I NEED IT FOR REFERENCE FOR MY SHORT STORY.
OH!
SORRY, I HAVE A BIT LEFT.
SHSH

WHERE SHOULD I PUT THE SPINACH?
OH, I'M GONNA DRESS IT WITH THESE TRUMPET MUSHROOMS, SO CAN YOU TOSS IT IN?
HEY.
BY THE WAY.
REMEMBER THE GUY I WAS WITH TODAY?
HIS NAME'S ALEX...
THE NEXT TIME YOU'RE FREE, WHY DON'T THE THREE OF US HANG OUT?
WHAT? WHY?
HE'S YOUR FRIEND, RIGHT?
ERR ...
YEAH, BUT...!
...
AHH ...

SO...I GUESS AL'S INTERESTED IN YOU...
...AND HE ASKED IF I COULD INTRODUCE YOU GUYS.
I TOLD HIM TO TALK TO YOU HIMSELF, BUT...
WELL, I DON'T THINK HE'S A BAD GUY OR ANYTHING...
OH, REALLY?
YOU'RE TRYING...
TO SET ME UP...
WITH THAT GUY, THEN?
BAM
JOLT ビクッ
ERR...

GLARE
ス
SWIF
ッ
バタン！
SLAM
HEY ...
...
OH, MAN.
I REALLY PISSED HER OFF.

KNOCK KNOCK
コンコン…
I MADE YAKIUDON*.
WANT SOME ?
…
POF
ぼふ
ぼふっ
POF

*PAN-FRIED UDON NOODLE EQUIVALENT OF YAKISOBA.

...IT'S GOOD.
CLACK コト...
SO ...
I'M SORRY ABOUT EARLIER.
I WAS BEING INSENSITIVE.

CONSIDERING YOUR FEELINGS, YOU HAD EVERY RIGHT TO BE ANGRY.
I SHOULDN'T HAVE SAID THAT JUST BECAUSE I WAS ASKED–
ずい
LEAN
ISN'T THERE SOMETHING...
...YOU SHOULD DO TO SHOW YOU'RE SORRY?
ギッ
CREAK
...
ッ...

ちゅ
CHUP
くちっ…
CHAP
TASTES LIKE YAKI-UDON …

YOU REALLY LIKE KISSING...
...HUH?
...
YOU KNOW HOW I ASKED IF I COULD TRY KISSING YOU THE FIRST TIME?
AT THE TIME, I WAS JUST CURIOUS WHAT IT WAS LIKE,
BUT...
...IT MADE ME FEEL SO LIGHT AND GIDDY.
IT WAS LIKE ALL THE WEIGHT ON MY HEART WAS BLOWN AWAY BY SOME SENSE OF SECURITY.
I KISSED YOU AT THE CAMP...
...BECAUSE I WANTED YOU TO FEEL THE SAME WAY.

WHAT THE?
SHE'S GETTING BETTER AT THIS.
OH, MAN...
THIS IS BAD...
GROPE
TWITCH

OH ...
S-
SORRY...
IT'S OKAY.
I DON'T MIND ...
AHH...

I'M MELTING ...

RUI ...
I BROUGHT THE BOOK I BORROWED ...
Keigo Higashin
FATE

CHAPTER 31: DECISION

OH...
SORRY...
I'LL COME BACK LATER.
SEN...

SENSEI, WAIT!
ダッ
DASH
ぱしっ
GRAB
HANG ON, SENSEI!
LET GO.
PLEASE HEAR ME OUT!
IT'S NOT WHAT IT LOOKED LIKE!
SORRY, REALLY.
I NEED TO—
I DON'T WANT YOU TO GET THE WRONG IDEA!
ABOUT WHAT?

SORRY.
I CAN'T THINK STRAIGHT RIGHT NOW.
RIGHT NOW, NO MATTER WHAT YOU SAY...
...I WON'T BE ABLE TO BELIEVE YOU.
バタン…
SHUT
...TCH.

CLACK
チャ…
ス
SWIF
ッ
HINA-NEE.
I'M COMING IN.
カ
チャ
CLACK

I FIGURED YOU PROBABLY WANT...
...TO SPEAK TO ME.
OH...
YOU BET I DO.
JUST NOW...
...WHO WAS THE ONE WHO–
ME.
I'M THE ONE WHO SEDUCED HIM.

...
WHY WOULD YOU...?
BECAUSE...
...I THINK I'M IN LOVE WITH HIM.

GRAB
RUI ...
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT YOU'RE SAYING?
NATSUO-KUN IS OUR FAMILY NOW!
DO YOU REALLY THINK IT'S OKAY TO HAVE THAT KIND OF RELATIONSHIP?!
BUT ...
...IT'S NOT LIKE WE'RE BLOOD-RELATED OR ANYTHING.

...
ス
ッ...
SWIF
ALL RIGHT. I GET...
WHERE YOU STAND.
YOU CAN GO NOW.

...I BET...
...IT'LL MAKE MOM SAD.
BUT...
...!
カチャ...
CLACK
...

KNOCK
コン
KNOCK
コン
WAKE UP, NATSUO-KUN.
BREAKFAST IS READY.
SORRY... I'M STILL KINDA TIRED.
CAN I EAT LATER?
ALL RIGHT.
I'LL PUT YOUR FOOD IN THE FRIDGE.
MAKE SURE TO HEAT UP THE MISO SOUP.

I HAVE NO IDEA...
...HOW I SHOULD FACE HER NOW.
WHAT THE HELL...
...IS GONNA HAPPEN FROM HERE ON?
1 Message(s)
Menu
Options
Messages
HEEEY!
GO FAR WITH CROZOIL
CONTENTS 1 U.S. QUART
100% PURE PARAFFIN
W.E. CROZ PRODUCTS CO. INC
YOU'RE LATE, NAT-CHAN!
I'VE BEEN BAKING OUT HERE IN THE SUN.
SORRY, IT TOOK A WHILE TO GET READY.
WHY DON'T WE GO SOMEWHERE INDOORS?
SOKO

No way!
She said no?!
WELL, SHE'S PRETTY SHY ABOUT MEETING NEW PEOPLE...
BUHH. I UNDERESTIMATED HOW SHY JAPANESE GIRLS CAN BE.
BUT I WON'T GIVE UP, NAT-CHAN!
I'LL HAVE PLENTY OF CHANCES AT SCHOOL, RIGHT?!
Y-YEAH...
Y'KNOW, I'VE BEEN WONDERING.
YOU LOOK GLOOMIER THAN USUAL TODAY.
DID SOMETHIN' HAPPEN?
...

I'M HAVING SOME FAMILY TROUBLE AT THE MOMENT...
...I'M NOT SURE WHERE THINGS ARE GOING.
DID YOU HAVE A FIGHT?
SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
DID YOU TALK IT OUT WITH THEM?
...
I CAN'T.
HONESTLY,
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY.
OOF.
THAT'S NO GOOD, MAN.
MY MOM'S THE SAME WAY.
IT'S A BAD HABIT OF JAPANESE PEOPLE.
THE JAPANESE HAVE THIS THING ABOUT GETTING YOUR POINT ACROSS WITHOUT TALKING,
BUT IT'S LIKE, WHAT AM I, A PSYCHIC?
YOU CAN'T TELL HOW SOMEONE ELSE FEELS UNLESS YOU ASK THEM.
AND THEY WON'T KNOW YOURS UNLESS YOU TELL THEM.
AM I RIGHT?
GO FAR WITH
ROZ
CONTENTS 1
MY MOM AND DAD SPLIT UP BECAUSE OF THAT KINDA MISCOMMUNICATION.

ERR ...
IN THAT CASE, SHOULDN'T YOU TALK TO RUI YOURSELF AND—
That's one thing.
This is another.
GO FAR WITH
OIL
コン
KNOCK
KNOCK
コン
...
YOU'RE THERE, AREN'T YOU?

YOU DON'T HAVE TO OPEN THE DOOR.
JUST LISTEN.
ABOUT YESTERDAY...
RUI STARTED IT, RIGHT?
...!
RUI TOLD ME YESTERDAY.
HOW SHE FEELS,
AND WHERE SHE STANDS.

...
WHAT ABOUT YOU,
NATSUO-KUN?
WHAT?
DO YOU LOVE RUI?
MY FEELINGS...
...HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL.
THEY'RE THE SAME AS WHEN I WENT TO THE BEACH WITH YOU.
...
MY...
NOTHING...
HAS CHANGED.

THEN...
...WHY DID YOU DO THAT?!
I'M...
...GOING TO MOVE OUT.

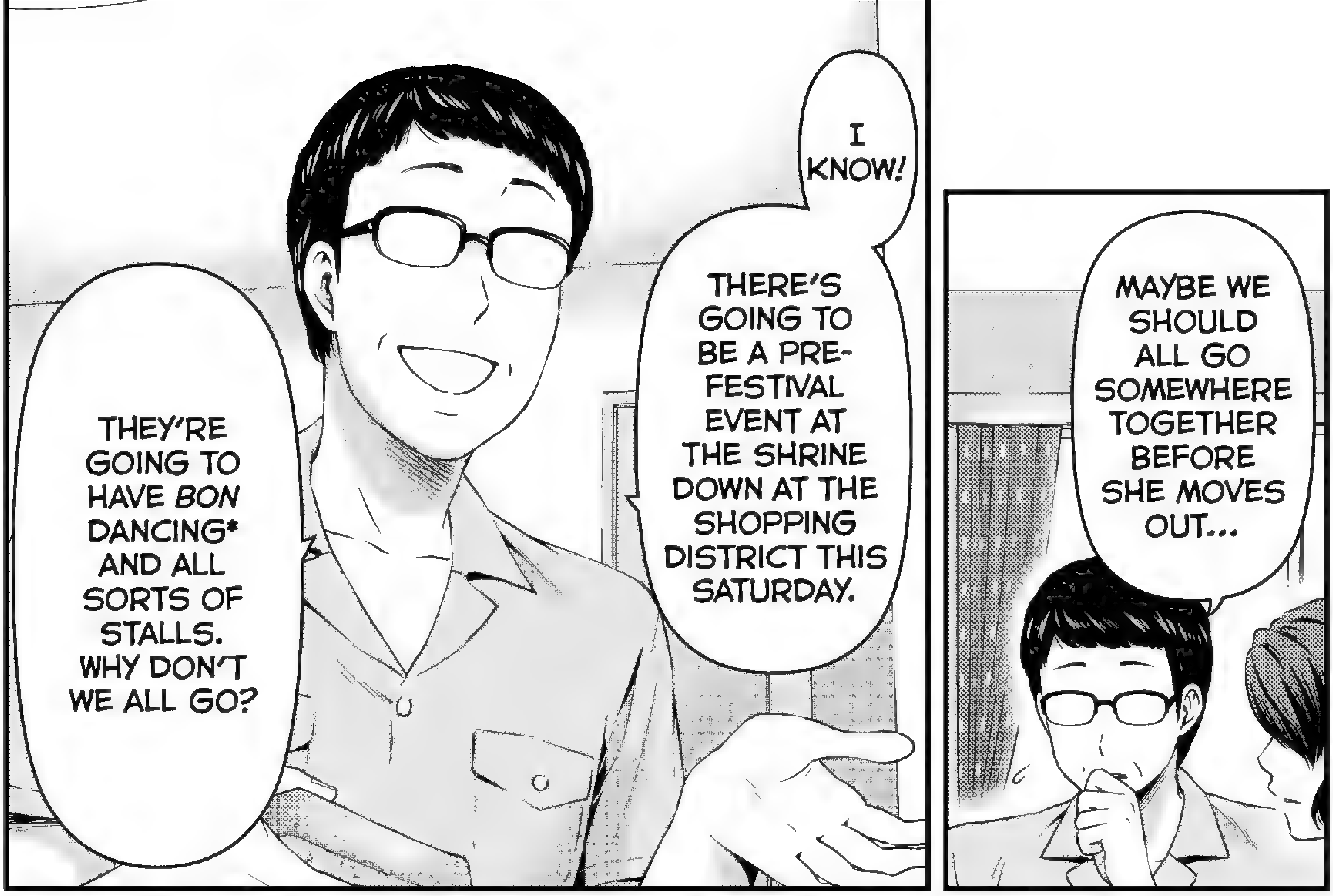
CHAPTER 32: HINA'S RESOLVE

MOVE...
MOVE OUT?
HUH?
WHAT?
BUT...
I THINK...
...THAT'D BE FOR THE BEST.
...
YOU'RE... KIDDING ME.

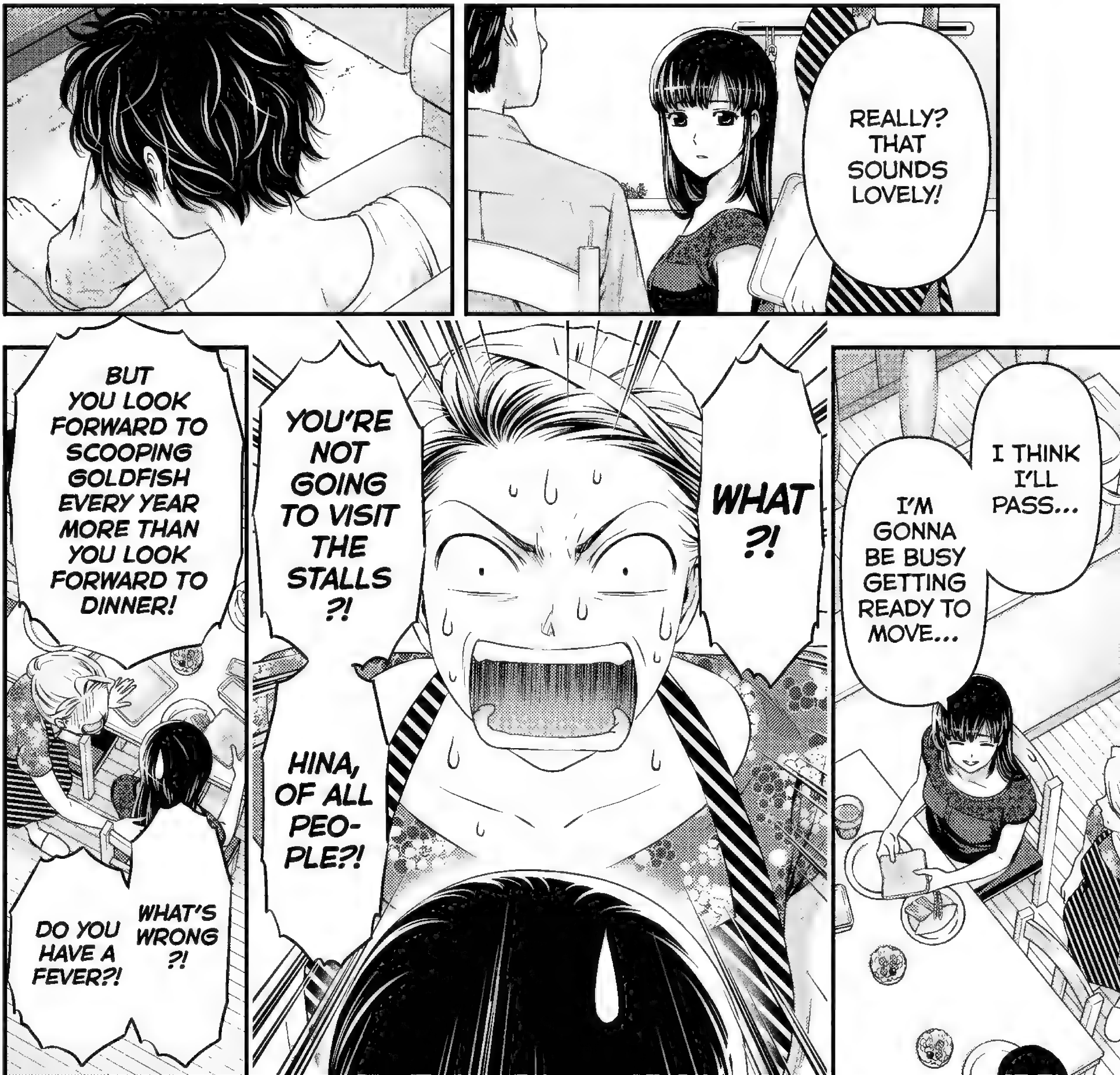
WHAT?!
YOU WANT TO MOVE OUT ON YOUR OWN?
WHERE DID THIS COME FROM?
WE JUST MOVED HERE THIS SPRING.
I KNOW. I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT IT FOR A WHILE NOW...
...BUT I COULDN'T MAKE UP MY MIND AND MISSED MY CHANCE.
DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE OPPOSED TO OUR MARRIAGE...
NOT AT ALL!
I'M ALL FOR IT!

I ALWAYS WANTED TO TRY SUPPORTING MYSELF,
BUT I WAS WORRIED ABOUT MOM AND RUI.
WITH THE FUJIIS HERE, I DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ANYMORE.
AND WITH IT BEING SUMMER BREAK, I FIGURE THERE'S NO BETTER TIME THAN NOW.
IS THAT SO...
WELL, YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE ADULT NOW.
HINA-NEE...
IS IT MY FAULT...?

HAVE YOU DECIDED WHEN YOU WANT TO MOVE?
NOT YET.
JUST BEFORE THE BREAK ENDS, IF I CAN.
IT'S GOING TO BE LONELY WITHOUT YOU AROUND...
カチャ… CLACK
NATSUO.
IT SEEMS HINA-SAN IS GOING TO BE MOVING OUT.
HAVE YOU HEARD?
AND HERE I THOUGHT IT WOULD ALWAYS BE THE FIVE OF US. IT'S SORT OF A SHAME.


MAYBE WE SHOULD ALL GO SOMEWHERE TOGETHER BEFORE SHE MOVES OUT...
I KNOW!
THERE'S GOING TO BE A PRE-FESTIVAL EVENT AT THE SHRINE DOWN AT THE SHOPPING DISTRICT THIS SATURDAY.
THEY'RE GOING TO HAVE *BON* DANCING* AND ALL SORTS OF STALLS. WHY DON'T WE ALL GO?

*TRADITIONAL DANCING FOR OBON, A FESTIVAL HONORING THE SPIRITS OF ONE'S ANCESTORS.


REALLY? THAT SOUNDS LOVELY!
I THINK I'LL PASS...
I'M GONNA BE BUSY GETTING READY TO MOVE...
WHAT?!
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO VISIT THE STALLS?!
HINA, OF ALL PEOPLE?!
BUT YOU LOOK FORWARD TO SCOOPING GOLDFISH EVERY YEAR MORE THAN YOU LOOK FORWARD TO DINNER!
WHAT'S WRONG?!
DO YOU HAVE A FEVER?!

NOT PARTICULARLY...
WHY, THEN?!
YOU ALWAYS VISIT FOUR OR FIVE FESTIVALS EVERY SUMMER!
JEEZ...
ALL RIGHT, I'LL GO.
クレープ
バナナチョコレート
カラン
CLANG

WOW. LOOK AT ALL THE PEOPLE.
I ONLY HAD AN UNTAILORED *YUKATA**, BUT I'M GLAD IT FITS YOU, NATSUO-KUN.
THANKS FOR PREPARING ONE FOR ME.
BOYS LOOK SO MUCH MORE HANDSOME IN *YUKATA* THAN *JINBEI***.
白あんこ
クリーム
PULL
くいっ
PULL
くいっ

---

*A TYPE OF TRADITIONAL LIGHT ROBE WORN SIMILARLY TO A KIMONO.

**BOTH TRADITIONAL SUMMER CLOTHES, *YUKATA* ARE ROBES SIMILAR TO A KIMONO, WHILE *JINBEI* CONSIST OF A TOP AND MATCHING SHORTS.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?
ABOUT HINA-NEE.
HUH?!
HOW SHE'S MOVING OUT...
IT'S DEFINITELY OUR FAULT, DON'T YOU THINK?
OH.
THAT, HUH?
YEAH, PROBABLY.
I WASN'T THINKING TOO DEEPLY ABOUT IT...
...BUT WE SHOULD PROBABLY HOLD OFF...
...ON THE KISSING, HUH?

YEAH.
YOU'RE RIGHT...
DON'T LOOK SO DOWN ABOUT IT, WILL YA?
OH!
OVER THERE.
DOESN'T SHE WORK AT *L'AMANT*?

フラ ポテト
OH!
NATSUO-KUN! RUI-CHAN!
FANCY MEETING YOU HERE.
AYANO-SAN!
I SEE YOUR BIG SISTER IS WITH YOU, TOO.
SORRY ABOUT THAT ONE TIME...
IS THIS YOUR SON?
THAT'S RIGHT!
HOW OLD ARE YOU?
FIVE?
YOUTA, INTRODUCE YOURSELF PROPERLY.
I THOUGHT I'D SHOW MY SON THE OWNER'S GALLANT DISPLAY TONIGHT.
HUH? THE OWNER?
YOU DON'T KNOW? BUSINESSES IN THE SHOPPING DISTRICT TAKE TURNS EVERY YEAR.
HE'S BEATING THE *TAIKO* DRUM FOR THE *BON* DANCE!
ドドン BOOM
ドドン BA-BOOM
ドン BOOM
LOOK.
ドドドン BA-BOOM BOOM

BA-DOOM
...!
BOOM
OOP! HEY, NATSUO-CHAN!
BA-BOOM
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU WEARING?!
BOOM
WELL, I DIDN'T WANT TO STAND OUT...
...BUT THEY INSISTED!
BOOM
BOOM
...
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO WEAR A FUNDOSHI*...
OH, THE GANG'S ALL HERE!
COME DANCE WHILE YOU'RE AT IT! C'MON!

*TRADITIONAL UNDERWEAR RESEMBLING A THICKER THONG.

PHEW...
I'M PARCHED FROM ALL THAT DANCING.
I FEEL LIKE THE OWNER'S ENERGY SUCKED AWAY ALL OF MINE...
こ飴
AH!
金魚すくい
GOLDFISH SCOOPING!
...
TWINKLE キラ
TWINKLE キラ
CAN I?
TWINKLE キラ
GO AHEAD. SCOOP TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT.
YOU'LL PROBABLY BE AT IT FOR A WHILE, SO WE'LL LOOK AROUND.
CALL ME WHEN YOU'RE DONE, OKAY?
'KAY!

ドッ
DOOM!!
WHOA, LADY!
SHE CAUGHT 46 FISH WITH ONE SCOOP!
AND NOW WE RELEASE...
NO WAY! WHAT A WASTE!
I'LL GIVE SOME TO ANY KIDS WHO WANT ANY.
EXCUSE ME, CAN I HAVE SOME BAGS?
COMIN' UP.
スルッ
SLIP
AHHH!
SPLASH
WHAT?! NO WAY! YOU'RE KIDDING!
P-POWER BUTTON...!

DEAD
金魚
...
W-WELL, THANKS, LADY! SEE YA!
DASH
BYE-BYE!
PLOD とぼ
PLOD とぼ
F-FOR NOW, I SHOULD FIND THE OTHERS...
SEN-SEI!
いかやき
焼きそ
NATSUO-KUN...
THANK GOD. MY PHONE BROKE AND I WASN'T SURE WHAT TO DO...
I CAN'T TELL HER THAT I'VE BEEN NEARBY THE WHOLE TIME...
...
おず...
FLINCH
I MIGHT ...
...LOSE YOU IN THIS CROWD.

SKSH
HUH?
ISN'T THIS ...
...BEHIND THE SHRINE?
WHERE ARE THE OTHERS?

WHY DID YOU BRING ME HERE?
IS IT ALL RIGHT...
...IF WE TALK IN PRIVATE FOR A BIT?

CHAPTER 33: TRUE FEELINGS

THE REASON YOU'RE MOVING OUT...
...IS BECAUSE OF ME, ISN'T IT?

I CAN'T BLAME YOU FOR SEEING IT THAT WAY...
...SINCE I BROUGHT IT UP WHEN DID.
I'M SORRY.
I REALLY HAD BEEN THINKING ABOUT MOVING OUT.
NOW JUST HAPPENED TO BE THE BEST TIME.
SO DON'T FEEL LIKE YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE OR ANYTHING, OKAY?
...
LIVING TOGETHER HAS MADE ME NOTICE SOME THINGS...

SENSEI, YOU ALWAYS LOOK DOWN TO THE SIDE WHEN YOU'RE TRYING TO EVADE THE QUESTION.
...
IT'S MY FAULT, RIGHT? PLEASE RETHINK MOVING OUT ON YOUR OWN.
I WON'T DO THAT KINDA THING WITH RUI ANYMORE.
AND I'LL DO MY BEST TO HIDE MY FEELINGS FOR YOU.
IF I DO ANYTHING THAT BOTHERS YOU, I'LL FIX IT!
TO ME, LIVING IN THAT HOUSE WITHOUT YOU IN IT...
IS JUST...
THAT'S NOT IT!

THIS IS BOTH FOR YOUR SAKE...
...AND SOMETHING I NEED TO DO FOR MYSELF!
...!
WHY...?
...
IS THERE SOME OTHER REASON?
ARE YOU...
...MOVING OUT SO YOU CAN BE WITH HAGIWARA-SAN?

...!
WHY...
...ARE YOU BRINGING UP SHUU-SAN NOW?
I'M SORRY.
I OVERHEARD YOU AND KIRIYA-SENSEI TALKING DURING THE CAMPING TRIP.
ABOUT HOW HIS DIVORCE IS FINALIZED.
YOU WANT TO GET BACK TOGETHER WITH HIM, DON'T YOU?
IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN I DON'T HAVE ANY RIGHT TO BUTT IN...
...OR BE OPPOSED...

SKSH HHH
HEY...
SENSEI?!
WAIT! I'M NOT DONE YET!
I DON'T WANT TO TALK TO YOU ANYMORE.
WHY ARE YOU MAD?
I ONLY ASKED WHY YOU'RE MOVING OUT!
STOP. LET GO OF ME.
WHAT DID I SAY THAT GOT ON YOUR NERVES?
I SAID LET GO! I'M DONE!
I WON'T! I DON'T WANT THIS TO END WITH A FIGHT!

CHOMP
OW!
WHA?!
YOU BIT ME?!
とうもろこし
CLACK
CLACK
WAIT UP, SENSEI!
LEAVE ME ALONE!
IF I OFFENDED YOU, THEN I'M SORRY!
I DON'T WANT AN APOLOGY!
I JUST DON'T FEEL LIKE–
BUMP
OOF!

PARDON ME.
...HM?
OH!
AREN'T YOU...
KOBAYASHI-SAN!
GRAB HER, PLEASE!
TAP
HUH?
LIKE THIS?
NOOOO!
YEAH, THANKS...
WHAT'S GOING ON? ARE YOU HAVING ANOTHER AFFAIR?
N-NO!
NO, WE WERE TALKING, BUT SHE SUDDENLY STORMED OFF IN ANGER...
SUDDENLY?
OH, IT'S TRUE.
YOU LOOK VERY UGLY RIGHT NOW, MY DEAR.

I'VE ALWAYS BEEN UGLY.
MY, WHAT A SOURPUSS.
THEY SAY GOOD WOMEN RUN WHEN PURSUED...
...BUT IT'S NOT VERY GRACEFUL TO RUN OFF IN THE MIDDLE OF A CONVERSATION.
AHHHH!
BACK: FESTIVAL
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, TROUBLING THIS TENDER YOUNG BUCK?
AREN'T YOU THE ADULT HERE?
TALK TO HIM LIKE ONE.
EVEN ADULTS...
...HAVE THINGS THEY CAN'T STAND.
AND IT'S AN ADULT'S JOB TO BE FLEXIBLE IN SUCH SITUATIONS!
ACTING THIS WAY TOWARD A KID IS JUST SHAMEFUL!
THEN I DON'T CARE IF I'M NOT AN ADULT!
THROWING A TANTRUM NOW?!
BOSS?

AYA-NO-CHAN.
NAT-SUO-KUN, TOO.
WHAT ARE YOU ALL DOING OUT HERE IN THE DARK?
MY, THIS IS AN ODD PAIRING.
THESE TWO ARE HAVING A BIT OF A SPAT.
I WANT TO DO SOMETHING FOR THEM, BUT…
IT'S NOT GOING SO WELL?
THAT'S UNUSUAL.
THE GIRL'S STUBBORN AS A MULE!
SHE'S LIKE A CHILD OR AN OLD FART!
IT'S HARD TO THINK SHE WAS HAVING AN ILLICIT LOVE AFFAIR JUST A WHILE AGO.
I DON'T THINK THAT HAS ANYTHING TO DO WITH IT…
PULL くい
PULL くいっ

RUSTLE ごそ
RUSTLE ごそ
HOP ♪ HOP
YOU-TA.
ARE YOU GIVING IT TO THIS LADY?
NOD こくっ
WHEN YOU FEEL BAD...
...EATING CANDY...
MAKES YOU FEEL A LITTLE BETTER.
JUST A LITTLE, THOUGH...
TH-
THANK YOU.
RUSTLE カサ…

IS IT TASTY?
ぽ
ろっ
DRIP
YEAH...
OH, MY.
THE NORTH WIND AND THE SUN*...
IT SEEMS SHE'S CALMED DOWN A BIT.
PLAY NICE NOW, YOU TWO.
LISTEN UP. AT A TIME LIKE THIS, IT'S BEST TO LET HER GET EVERYTHING OFF HER CHEST WITHOUT ARGUING OR ASKING QUESTIONS.
THAT WAY, SHE'LL FEEL BETTER AND COME BACK TO HER OLD SELF.
WELL, GOOD LUCK!
THANKS A LOT...
"REAL MEN TALK WITH THEIR ASSES," HUH?

*ONE OF AESOP'S FABLES.

RUI...
...HAS ALWAYS BEEN SO CAREFREE SINCE SHE WAS A LITTLE.
I WAS KIND OF JEALOUS OF HER.
I FELT THAT I ALWAYS HAD TO KEEP IT TOGETHER,
AND THERE WERE A LOT OF TIMES WHEN I HAD TO ACT BASED ON THE SITUATION...
...BUT EVEN THOUGH RUI IS KIND OF AWKWARD, SHE HAS A FIRM SENSE OF IDENTITY.
I ENVIED THAT. I WISHED I COULD BE LIKE THAT, TOO.
...
THAT'S WHY...
I'M MOVING OUT.

HUH ...?
WHEN I SAW YOU TWO KISSING...
...I WAS LESS WORRIED ABOUT OUR FAMILY FALLING APART...
...THAN I WAS JEALOUS OF HER.
...
AT THIS RATE, I'M NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO HOLD BACK MY FEELINGS ANYMORE.
SO I WANTED TO LEAVE BEFORE THAT HAPPENS.
SENSEI, DOES THAT MEAN...
YOU'RE PROBABLY THINKING, "BUT YOU'RE THE ONE WHO TURNED ME DOWN!"
BUT I CAN'T HELP IT!
AS AN ADULT,
I CAN'T DO THINGS THAT RUI CAN!

I KEEP TELLING MYSELF THAT I SHOULDN'T ...
...BUT IT'S GETTING HARDER AND HARDER TO FOOL MYSELF.
PFF
WH- WHAT ...?
OH.
SORRY ...
IT'S JUST THAT ...
...I FEEL LIKE I FINALLY HEARD YOUR TRUE FEELINGS FOR THE FIRST TIME, SENSEI.
AND THEY WERE SO UNEXPECTED.
I CAN'T HELP BUT LAUGH BECAUSE I'M SO HAPPY.
WHAT GIVES?
AND HERE I AM SPILLING MY GUTS!
FINE, I'M DONE!
WAIT!

NAT-SUO-KUN?
YOU DON'T ...
...HAVE TO SAY ANYTHING.
I WON'T ASK FOR ANYTHING ELSE...
...SO DO YOU MIND IF I THINK THIS WAY?
THAT YOU,
AND ME...
...ARE IN LOVE WITH EACH OTHER?

INSTEAD OF ANSWERING,
JUST LET ME HOLD YOU FOR A LITTLE LONGER.
JUST ...
...A LITTLE LONGER.

CHAPTER 34: THE DISTANCE BETWEEN THEM

HINA!
NAT-SUO!
WHERE DID YOU GO? WE'VE BEEN LOOKING ALL OVER.
I TRIED CALLING YOU, BUT YOUR PHONE SEEMS TO BE OFF.
SORRY, SORRY.
MY PHONE DROWNED WHILE I WAS SCOOPING GOLDFISH...
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO WITH YOU?
WELL,
IT'S GETTING LATE, SO WHY DON'T WE GO HOME NOW?
MY FEET ARE KILLING ME FROM ALL THE WALKING.

文
クリニック

WHAT?!
YOU'RE STILL GOING TO MOVE OUT?!
OF COURSE.
OF COURSE? BUT...
I MEAN...
I MEANT IT WHEN I SAID I WANTED TO TRY LIVING ON MY OWN.
IT WOULD BE WEIRD IF I CHANGED MY MIND RIGHT AFTER I TOLD EVERYONE, RIGHT?
YEAH, BUT...
LOOK.
I ALREADY HAVE A PLACE PICKED OUT.

...
WELL ...
...IT'S NOT LIKE I'LL BE MOVING THAT FAR AWAY.
I'LL PROBABLY GET LONELY AND COME VISIT A LOT, ANYWAY.
AND IT MIGHT BE NICE TO HAVE A PLACE...
...WHERE WE CAN SEE EACH OTHER IN PRIVATE.
I-IT'S COOL IF I GO?!
REALLY?!
...MAYBE NOT, IF YOU GET *THAT* EXCITED.

FOR OUR NEXT SEGMENT,
WE HAVE A TOUR OF THE CITY'S FINEST SWEETS.
SPACING OUT SO EARLY IN THE MORNING...
YOU'VE BEEN DOWN EVER SINCE HINA DECIDED TO MOVE OUT.
DO YOU FEEL THAT LONELY WITHOUT YOUR BIG SISTER?
...
I DON'T KNOW.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT I SHOULD DO.
OR WHAT I *WANT* TO DO.
WHAT YOU SHOULD DO?
THERE ISN'T ANYTHING FOR YOU TO DO, RUI.
IT'S HINA'S DECISION.
YEAH.
I KNOW, BUT...
WELL,
THERE'S NO SENSE IN MOPING AROUND LIKE THIS.
WHY DON'T YOU GO FOR A WALK AND GET SOME FRESH AIR?
本
GAME
GAME
VWEEE

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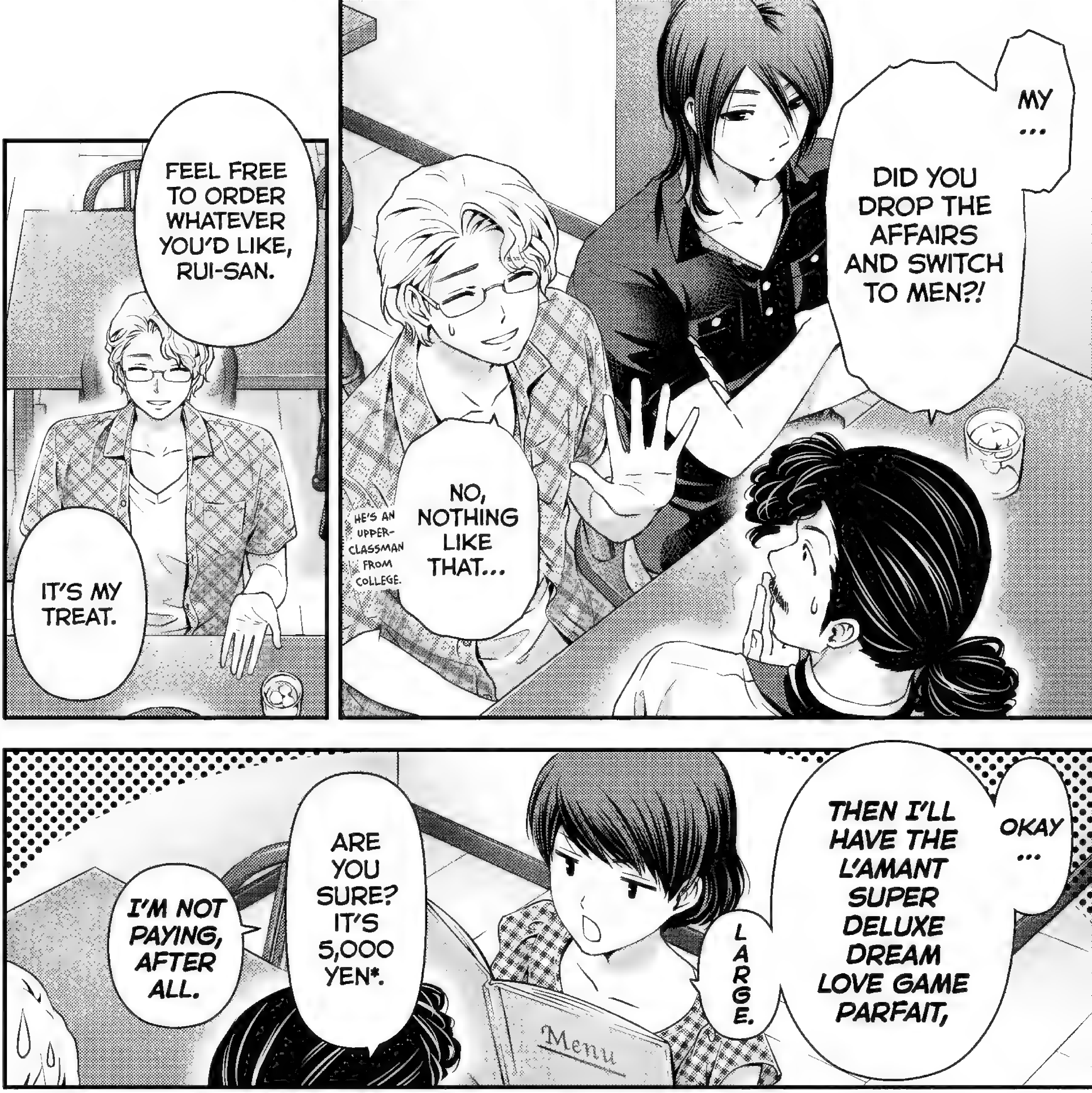
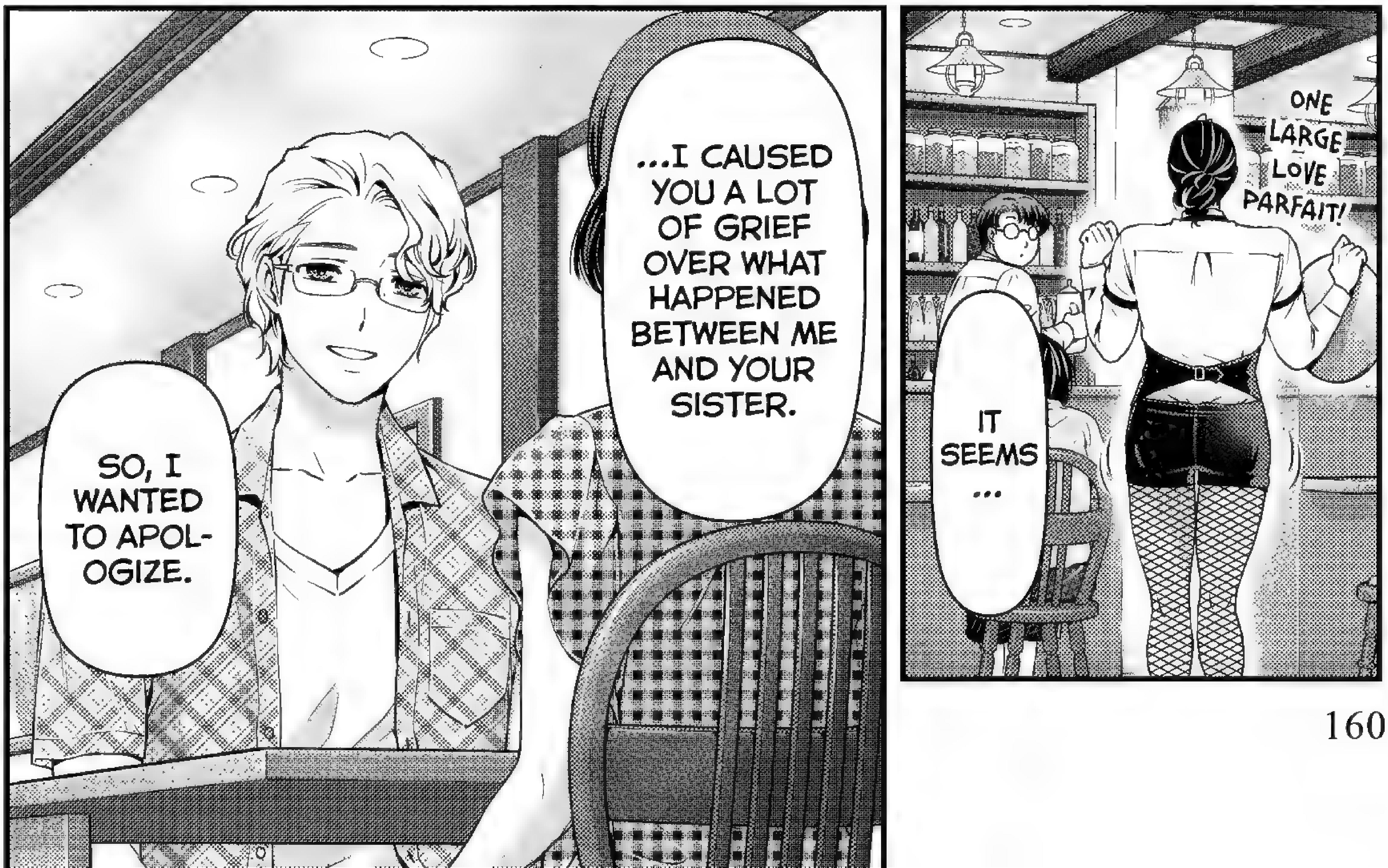
姉 Sisters 妹
RECOMMENDED!
A tale of discord between sisters that eats away at the bonds of their peaceful family.
THE BOOK BEHIND THE FILM
OVER 100,000 COPIES SOLD!
...
TAP だ TAP だっ
KIRIYA-SEN—
GASP

TACHI-BANA-KUN.
!
AH...
BACK
じり...
...!
WAIT!
DON'T RUN AWAY!
YOU'VE MET?
YES. WE HAD A CHANCE TO SPEAK BEFORE...

HISS
N-NO NEED TO BE SO HOSTILE...
DID YOU DO SOMETHING TO HER OR WHAT?
SINCE THEN...
...I HAVEN'T TRIED CONTACTING YOUR SISTER AT ALL.
SO PLEASE, DON'T WORRY.
...
I KNOW!
DO YOU HAVE TIME?
IF YOU DON'T MIND,
I'D LIKE TO APOLOGIZE TO YOU AGAIN.
SMV
カメラのサワムラ
買取センター
YAWN
くあぁっ


MY ...
DID YOU DROP THE AFFAIRS AND SWITCH TO MEN?!
NO, NOTHING LIKE THAT...
HE'S AN UPPER-CLASSMAN FROM COLLEGE.
FEEL FREE TO ORDER WHATEVER YOU'D LIKE, RUI-SAN.
IT'S MY TREAT.
OKAY ...
THEN I'LL HAVE THE L'AMANT SUPER DELUXE DREAM LOVE GAME PARFAIT,
LARGE.
Menu
ARE YOU SURE? IT'S 5,000 YEN*.
I'M NOT PAYING, AFTER ALL.

*APPROX. $50.


ONE LARGE LOVE PARFAIT!
IT SEEMS ...
...I CAUSED YOU A LOT OF GRIEF OVER WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN ME AND YOUR SISTER.
SO, I WANTED TO APOLOGIZE.

I'M SORRY.
DID THINGS...
...WORK OUT BETWEEN YOU AND YOUR WIFE AFTER THAT?
WE'RE...
...DIVORCED NOW.
!
BUT IT HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH HINA-CHAN.
IT WAS JUST A CONFLICT OF PERSONALITIES.
OH, BUT,
I WON'T TRY TO GET IN TOUCH WITH YOUR SISTER FROM NOW ON, EITHER.
REST ASSURED.
...
WHY NOT?

...
I FEEL IT WOULDN'T BE RIGHT ...
IF I'M THE ONE WHO REACHES OUT.
I'D BE LYING IF I SAID I DON'T STILL HAVE FEELINGS FOR HER,
BUT SHE WAS THE ONE WHO DECIDED TO BREAK UP.
IT WOULD BE ONE THING IF SHE GOT IN TOUCH WITH ME,
BUT I'D HAVE TO BE PRETTY SELFISH TO TRY TO GET BACK TOGETHER WITH HER JUST BECAUSE I DIVORCED MY WIFE, WOULDN'T I?
WELL ...
...CHALK IT UP TO A MAN'S DUMB PRIDE, I SUPPOSE.
MY, MY. YOU'RE SPEAKING LIKE A REAL MAN NOW!
THERE'S NOTHING MORE PATHETIC THAN MEN WHO CHASE AFTER THEIR EXES.
IT'S HUGE...

NOT TO MENTION...
...IT SEEMS SHE HAD A CHANGE OF HEART, AS WELL.
...
HOW HAS HINA-CHAN BEEN SINCE THEN?
...
SHE'S...
MOVING OUT SOON.
SHE SAID SHE WANTS TO LIVE ON HER OWN...
...SO SHE'S GOING TO LEAVE BEFORE SUMMER BREAK IS OVER.
IS THAT SO?
IS SHE GOING FAR?
I TAKE IT...
...YOU'RE NOT FOND OF THE IDEA?

I THINK IT MIGHT BE MY FAULT...
...THAT SHE'S MOVING OUT.
WHAT?
WE SORT OF HAD A FIGHT...
...THEN SHE SAID SHE WAS MOVING OUT RIGHT AFTER.
SHE'S BEEN GETTING READY TO LEAVE...
AND I'M NOT SURE WHAT TO DO.
WHAT DID TACHIBANA-SENSEI SAY?
THAT SHE'S WANTED TO TRY LIVING ON HER OWN FOR A WHILE.
BUT I THINK SHE JUST SAID THAT BECAUSE OF ME...
IF THAT'S WHAT HINA-CHAN SAID, THEN I THINK SHE MEANT IT.

SHE'S NOT THE KIND OF GIRL WHO WOULD LEAVE OUT OF SPITE.
I THINK YOU SHOULD TRUST YOUR BIG SISTER.
I'M SURE THAT YOUR CONCERNS...
DON'T REFLECT HER TRUE INTENTIONS.
HINA-NEE...
RUI...?
CAN I...
GET A MINUTE?

WHAT'S UP?
...
WHAT'S WRONG?
YOU WERE OUT ALL DAY, RIGHT?
DID SOMETHING BAD HAPPEN?

RU-
RUI ...?
... LEAVE.

PLEASE DON'T LEAVE...!
RUI...
I KNOW I SAID I MIGHT BE IN LOVE WITH HIM...
...BUT I WANT YOU TO STAY WITH ME TOO, HINA-NEE!
WE'VE ALWAYS LIVED TOGETHER.
I DON'T WANT YOU TO GO AWAY!
DO I JUST HAVE TO NOT HAVE FEELINGS FOR HIM ANYMORE?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT I SHOULD DO TO MAKE YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND!

IT'S ALL RIGHT.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO CHANGE AT ALL, RUI.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO ANYTHING.
YOU CAN JUST FOLLOW YOUR HEART,
AND LIVE ANY WAY YOU WANT TO.

IN RETURN...
...I NEED YOU TO LET ME BE FREE, TOO, OKAY?
DON'T GIVE ME THAT FACE.
I'LL DO MY BEST TO VISIT ON WEEKENDS.
OKAY...

トン TAP
トン TAP
I WROTE A LOT TODAY.
I MIGHT BE ABLE TO FINISH BEFORE THE BREAK ENDS.
WHAT DO YOU WANNA DO NOW?
WHY DON'T WE WATCH A MOVIE AT MY PLACE?
...
I'M BACK.
カチャ CLACK

WHAT'S THIS?
To Natsuo-kun
Hina
!
RUSTLE
ガサ
ガサ
RUSTLE
C-223
C-223

CHAPTER 35: DOOR

IS THIS...
...WHAT I THINK IT IS?
LOOK.
I ALREADY HAVE A PLACE PICKED OUT.
A SPARE KEY...
...TO SENSEI'S APARTMENT, RIGHT?
ALPHa
SEN...SEI.
WHAT'S UP?

WHY ARE YOU STANDING OUTSIDE YOUR ROOM?
HUH?
ERR...
I JUST SAW SOME TRASH ON THE GROUND.
クシャッ
CRUMP
ギ
ゆっ
STUFF
...UH-HUH.
WELL, MAKE SURE YOU THROW IT AWAY.
カチャ
CLACK

ALL RIGHT! ALL RIGHT!
STOP!
ドン
THUD
PHEW.
THINGS GO SO MUCH QUICKER WITH MEN DOING ALL THE LIFTING.
I KNOW, RIGHT?
WHY DON'T WE TAKE A BREAK?
I BOUGHT LUNCH FOR EVERYONE.

I KNOW YOU'RE ALL GROWN UP, BUT I STILL WORRY.
WILL YOU REALLY COOK FOR YOURSELF?
I'LL LEARN TO!
WELL, I SUPPOSE THIS WILL HELP TRAIN YOU TO BECOME A GOOD WIFE SOMEDAY.
ぱ
SNAP
RABBIT RECORD
ちっ
SMILE

I KNEW IT.
THIS KEY IS...!
ALPHA

I THINK...
...SHE'S TESTING ME.
I COULDN'T SAY ANYTHING BACK THEN...
...BUT CAN I GIVE HER AN ANSWER NOW?
...
カチャ
CLACK
HUH?
SENSEI'S DOOR IS OPEN...

...
IT'S KINDA LONELY, HUH?

!
HARD TO THINK THIS WAS STILL SENSEI'S ROOM THIS MORNING.
...
YEAH.
IT JUST FEELS SO EMPTY.
THE FACT THAT SHE'S GONE IS FINALLY SETTING IN...
FROM NOW ON,
I WON'T BE ABLE TO NAG HINA-NEE FOR BEING PICKY...
...OR DRAG HER DRUNKEN BODY ALL THE WAY TO BED ANYMORE.
IT'S LIKE THERE'S A HOLE IN MY HEART...
WELL,
IT'LL DEFINITELY TAKE A WHILE TO GET USED TO.
I CAN'T BLAME YOU.
LET'S TRY NOT TO WORRY OUR PARENTS AT LEAST.

ぎゅ
HUG
ゅ
っ
...
I THINK IT WOULD'VE BEEN WORSE IF I WAS ALL ALONE.
WE'D ALWAYS BEEN TOGETHER, AFTER ALL.
AT LEAST...
I HAVE YOU NOW.

SWIF
. . .
YEAH.
YOU'VE STILL GOT ME, YOUR MOM, AND MY DAD.
THE FOUR OF US WILL GET THROUGH THIS.
I'LL BE HERE TO SUPPORT YOU...
...SO YOU DON'T GET TOO LONELY.
AS YOUR BROTHER...

THE NEXT DAY
I'M HOME.
WELCOME HOME.
OH, MAKING DINNER?
WHAT'S ON THE MENU?
GINGER PORK.
SOUNDS GREAT!
THAT'S NATSUO'S FAVORITE! I'M SURE HE'LL BE EXCITED.
OH ...
I SEE.
TOO BAD.
HUH?
HE LEFT EARLIER.
HE SAID HE WON'T NEED DINNER.
WHERE DID HE GO?

Mizutani
FUMIYA-KUN'S PLACE...
Tachibana
202
Nohara
203
ピンーン
DING
ポーン
DONG
...
HUH?
202
ピンポーン
DING DONG
ピンポーン
DING DONG
DID SHE STEP OUT...?
...
カチャ
CLACK

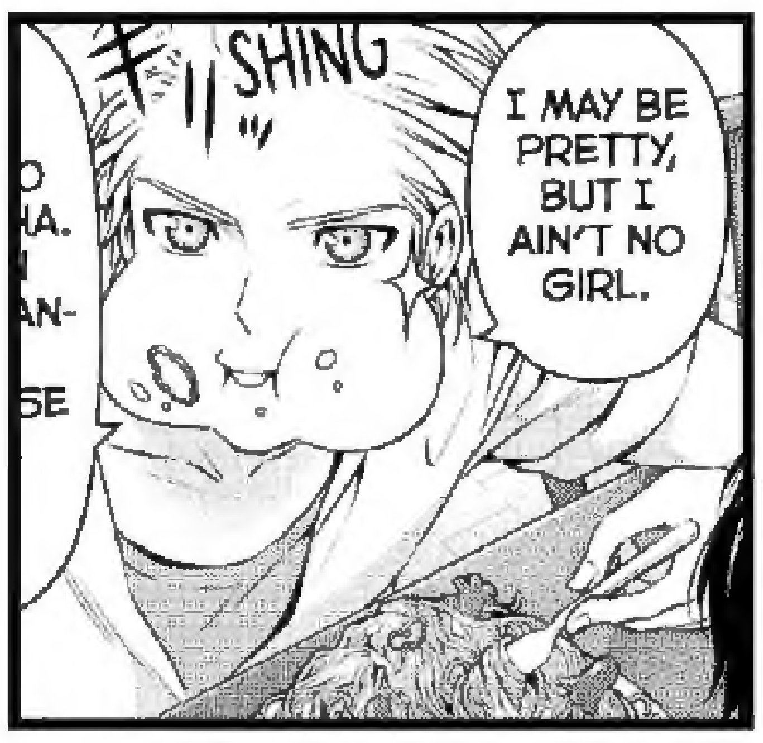
YOU SCARED ME!
I THOUGHT I FORGOT TO LOCK THE DOOR FOR A SECOND.
I GOT TIRED FROM UNPACKING.
...
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT NOT HAVE NEEDED THE KEY.
YOU LOOKED AWAY YESTERDAY, AFTER ALL.
NO WAY!
YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW HAPPY I WAS WHEN I SAW THE KEY!
SENSEI.
I...
I CAME HERE PREPARED.

IF IT'S WITH YOU...
...THEN I DON'T MIND DYING TOGETHER.
GOD...
I'M A FAILURE AS BOTH AN ADULT AND A TEACHER.

I'M ACTUALLY...
...HAPPY TO HEAR YOU SAY THAT.

...to be continued.

TRANSLATION NOTES


I MAY BE PRETTY, BUT I AIN'T NO GIRL.
SHING

KIKOKU-SHIIJO, P68

> 68.3

In this panel, Natsuo refers to Alex as *kikoku-shijo,* which means someone who used to live abroad, but returned to Japan. The *shijo* part of the word uses the character for "girl". Al's original line translates more along the lines of, "Hey, who're you callin' a girl?" The wordplay is unfortunately lost in translation.

Domestic Girlfriend 4

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